

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. The required fee for two additional independent claims is included. The total number of claims has decreased.

Telephone Interview Summary

Applicant thanks the Examiner for her comments and courtesies extended during a telephone interview with Applicant's attorney Mark D. Swanson on 24 July 2006. Applicant inquired about the objection to the dependent method claims and argued these claims are not improper. Applicant has amended the claims into independent form to expedite allowance of this Patent Application.

Amendment to the Specification

Applicant corrected the typographical errors identified by the Office Action.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include limitations of dependent Claim 2, which was indicated as allowable. Claim 6 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for all limitations. Claims 24 and 25 have been amended into

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independent form as suggested in the Office Action. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 11 and 12 depend from amended Claim 1, which is in condition for allowance. Claims 11 and 12 are to be rejoined, as they depend from allowable base Claim 1.

Objection to the Specification

Applicant has corrected the typographical errors identified in the Office Action.

Claim Objections

Applicant has amended Claims 24 and 25 into independent form as requested in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

The rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, is respectfully traversed. Claim 6 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for “sealing gasket.”

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejections of Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Parker et al., US 2002/0162476, and Osborne et al., U.S. Patent 5,496,065, are respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to include

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limitations of dependent Claim 2, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for her efforts in determining Claims 13-29 are allowed and that Claims 2, 4, and 7-10 include allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of allowable Claim 2, thereby placing all claims in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant intends to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicant has not resolved in this response, Applicant's undersigned attorney requests a further telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicant sincerely believes that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully requests early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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